



NEWS RELEASE

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Centennial High School Team Crowned State Champion in LifeSmarts Competition that Tests Teen Consumer Knowledge

SACRAMENTO – Five students from Centennial High School in Corona used their marketplace moxie to defend their state title and win the LifeSmarts State Championship today for the second straight year in a competition hosted by the California Department of Consumer Affairs.

The 2006 state champion took home prizes and also won a trip to Philadelphia to represent California at the national competition April 22-25.



“LifeSmarts may be fun, but these teens are learning marketplace facts of life that will empower them as consumers and help them avoid scams,” said California Department of Consumer Affairs Director Charlene Zettel. “Only one team will represent California at the national competition, but every student who participated at the state level is a winner because of the knowledge and skills they’ve gained.”

The Centennial High School “FBLA Huskies” competed in a head-to-head showdown against San Luis High School in Los Banos. The San Luis “Wolves” were the other top California squad chosen in the first phase of the state competition, which was conducted over the Internet.

Members of the State Champion team from Centennial High School are Hector Ruiz; Jay Patel; Shaishav Shah; Rahul Patel; and Eugene Han. The team is coached by Lee Lara and Greg Lukenbill.

Runner-up San Luis High School competitors were: Vida Neu; Jeff Parra; Kyle Anderson; Ashley Payton; and Crystal Stuart. The team was coached by Traci Sumner.

These teen contestants answered increasingly difficult questions to test their consumer knowledge in a daylong, game-show style contest, which included individual, team and challenge questions. A panel of experts evaluated the students’ answers.

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High School Team Crowned State Champion in LifeSmarts Competition

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LifeSmarts is an educational program that complements school curriculum. The competition, open to all teens in grades nine through twelve, is a fun way to learn consumer and marketplace skills. Students work in classrooms or with coached teams to learn about credit cards, consumer debt and financial issues that are vital in today's marketplace. The program also encourages teens to study health and safety, the environment and technology.

The National Consumers League sponsors LifeSmarts nationally, with the California Department of Consumer Affairs coordinating California's State Championship and working to promote LifeSmarts to students and teachers throughout California.

More information is available online by visiting the California Department of Consumer Affairs Web site at www.dca.ca.gov and clicking on the "[LifeSmarts](#)" link.

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